(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the companies dump these fertilizers at the nearerst place due to which these fertilizers accumulate, in large quantity, at one place and shortage of the same at other places prompts black marketing thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to do away with this mismanagement?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Amount of subsidy paid on urea for quantities dispatched both under Essential Commodity Act (ECA) allocation as well as non-ECA quantities is same except for the fact that the equated freight payable for the quantities of urea dispatched outside ECA allocation is less by Rs. 100/- MT than the freight rate pqyable for quantities of ureas dispatched under ECA alloction.

(b) The Department of Fertilizers ensures availability of urea which is under partial movement control, at the State level. The State Governments are required to ensure its availability and sale at MRP in different parts of the State to correspond to the assessed requirement. Adequate provisions exist under the Essential Commodity Act and Fertilizer (Control) Order empowering the States to ensure this as also to prevent black marketing.

(c) For ensuring the availability of Fertilizers in all parts of the country, the Department is introducting an online Fertilizer Monitoring System, which will *inter alia*, track movement of fertilizers up to district level, which will prevent accumulation of fertilizers at select places. Moreover, rail freight reimbursement on actual basis up to rake point and rationalization of road freight in order to encourage equitable distribution and movement of urea is also under consideration.

Procurement of mustard at MSP

†*151. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government policy on procurement of mustard on support price during 2006-07 and 2007-08;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the difference between the present support price and that fixed for mustard for the above said years;

(c) whether the mustard growers in Rajasthan had to face great difficulties during the last two years due to the attitude of Government and FAFED; and

(d) if so, what steps Government would like to take to do away with their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for mustard seeds on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). Under Price Support Scheme (PSS), Government purchases mustard seeds at the MSP through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED); the designated Government agency for the purpose. The MSP for mustard seeds fixed by the Government for the year 2006-07 is Rs. 1715 per quintal which is the same as it was for the year 2005-06. The MSP for 2006-07 is applicable for procurement of mustard seeds during the marketing year 2007-08.

(c) and (d) The ruling month-end wholesale prices of mustard seeds at Hindaun (Rajasthan) market has been in the range of Rs. 1385-1675 per quintal during the period from April 2005 to november 2006. Since the market prices have been less than the MSP, NAFED had undertaken procurement operations of mustard seeds in the State on a massive scale to avert the distress sales by the farmers.

During the last two years, Procurement of Mustard by NAFED was 20.93 lakh MTs in 2005-06 and 22.05 lakh MTs 2006-07. Of this, 14.04 lakh MTs and 14.18 lakh MTs. were procured from Rajasthan during these two years respectively.

Travelling in the name of the Members of Parliament

†*152. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.